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OFFICIAL LETTERS OF GOVERNOR JOHN MARTIN, 1782-1783.

John Martin was the Governor of Georgia at a most important time in the history of the State, when the British government found that all hope of keeping within its grasp its rich possessions in America must be thrown away; when Sir James Wright, the royal Governor, seeing the hopelessness of his cause, wrote to England that "appearances are very gloomy," and, as a matter of great concern, stated that "The rebel Governor Martin, now at Ebenezer, has issued three proclamations, one to the King's troops, one to the Hessians, and another to the militia, inviting them all to revolt and join the virtuous Americans against the tyranny of the British government," adding that "three hundred French troops are on their way from Virginia, and yet we can get no assistance, and all my letters are disregarded;" and when the British troops actually evacuated Savannah, forever liberating the State of Georgia from foreign dominion. It is strange, then, that the letters of this man have not before this been published collectively. Stranger still is the fact that so little is known of his life. Writers state that they do not know where he was born, and yet in one of the letters following, to General Greene, he says he was a native of Rhode Island. One account alleges that nothing is known as to the time or place of his death, but the Georgia Gazette of February 2d, 1786, contained this record: "Last week died on his way westward, whither he was bound for the recovery of his health, the Hon. John Martin, Esq."

John Martin represented the town and district of Savannah in the first Provincial Congress of Georgia, in July, 1775. He was a member of the Council of Safety until ap-

pointed first lieutenant of the 7th Company "ordered to be raised for the protection and defense of the Colony of Georgia." He was promoted to the office of Captain July 11th, 1776, and in 1781 attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. On the 2d of January, 1782, he was elected Governor of Georgia, and held the office until January 9th, 1783, when he was succeeded by Lyman Hall, and then he became Treasurer of the State.

Augusta, Jan. 11th, 1782.

Friends and Brothers,

Open your ears wide, and be attentive to what I am now going to tell you; for they are great truths and not lies.

In our last talk to you by your head men and warriors we told you that our great warrior, General Washington, had beat the English in Virginia, and had taken their head warrior and eight thousand red coats and two thousand Tories and sailors prisoners, and had also taken a great many of their ships of war, which has put an end to the war in Virginia; that our warriors were coming on to Carolina & Georgia to General Greene, our great warrior in Carolina, in order to drive the British from Charleston and Savannah, and put an end to the war in Carolina and in this Country.

Our warriors are all arrived in Carolina, and are not now more than one hundred miles from Augusta.

We likewise told you we would wish to live in peace and friendship with our old friends and brothers, the Creeks, and to keep the chain of friendship as fair and as bright as the Sun, and the path plain, clear and open, and that our friendship should be united by a chain so strong as never to be broken, so that we might live in peace with our good old friends and brothers, the Creeks, forever; and that I now repeat and tell them the same.

But, to our great surprise and astonishment, some of your mad people and the Tories and bad people who remain among them by the instigation of Brown's lying talks and a few trifling presents, have been induced to come down and have murdered one of our people, in the back settlements, and have carried off two young women prisoners, and some of our horses and cattle.

Our great warrior, General Greene, is now lying before Chas. Town with a large army of soldiers and horsemen, with their long swords and pistols, so that none of the

British dare shew their heads out of Charleston;—Our good friends the French have already taken most all the rum, sugar and salt islands from the English, and will this winter take the whole of them, then they will supply us with plenty of rum, sugar, and salt, and we shall be able to supply you with these articles. You likewise see that our good friends the Spaniards, have already taken Mobile & Pensacola, and they will very soon take Augustine, as we are told by deserters from Savannah that they are already there with a great many thousand warriors and ships of war, & we shall soon drive the British away from Chas. Town and Sav., and then this whole country will be ours again, and the British will never be again able to take it from us, for we have already killed and taken most all of their soldiers.

Brothers, you are sensible we have desired you to go to Carolina to see our great warrior, Gen'l Greene, and his army, that you might see them with your own eyes, and be convinced we tell you nothing but truth, and that you might tell your headmen and warriors that you have seen these things with your own eyes, but you have told us you are obliged immediately to return and can't undertake the journey. However, if you'll inform your headmen and warriors if any of them have a mind to come down and see our great warrior, General Greene, and his army in Carolina, we would be very glad, that they might see with their own eyes, and be convinced that what we tell you is true.

You say our good friends the Spaniards won't give you any ammunition, altho' you say you know they have great plenty. I know the reason very well; it is because you still keep Brown's liars, Tories & King's people among you, and they are afraid if they supply you with powder and ball, that your mad men will use it against their good friends the Virginians. But if you drive the Tories, Brown's liars, and King's men from among you, and never let them return again, then they will supply you with what you want; otherwise they will not. Brothers, we should be very sorry to fall out with any of our good old friends, the Creeks, on account of their mad people, occasioned by Brown's lying talks, but we cannot; our hearts will not let us put up with those injuries, and they may depend we will not put up with our people's being cruelly murdered in this manner.

You tell us you wish to be our friends & to live in peace & still let Mr. McIntosh & Brown's lying people keep among you, & let your mad men and them come down and murder our peaceable men, women, and children, and steal

our horses, cattle & negroes. Actions speak louder than words. If you wish to live in peace with us, as we sincerely do with you, convince us you speak truth, by immediately sending down all our white people that you have taken prisoners, and all the negroes, horses, and cattle they have stole from us, and likewise send us down all those Tories, bad people, and King's men that are among you making mischief, that we may take satisfaction of them ourselves, and suffer no more of them to come among you with their lies, to deceive you. By doing this you will plainly show that you mean to be our fast and firm friends;—for, as I told you before, actions speak louder than words; otherwise we are sorry to tell you we shall be obliged to send our warriors up to your towns (that have done the mischief) and lay them in ashes and make your women widows, and children fatherless. We should be very sorry the innocent should suffer with the guilty, which perhaps may be the case, which can only be avoided by separating themselves from their mad men, & those Tories and liars that are among them—it is our enemies we threaten and not our friends. But we hope you will be wise and give us the satisfaction we ask, and not oblige us to do that which we would not wish to do.

The British made war upon us because we and our women and children would not be their slaves & work for them the same as the negroes, and if they could have made slaves of us, they would have made you their slaves also;—no we would not be their slaves, we had the spirit of men and warriors; we fought them and beat them; the great God above fights for us in our great cause. The British have told you all along that they have beat us everywhere, and that they had killed almost all of us—they tell you great lies—for if they are strong enough to beat us themselves, why are they sending people among you every day with their lies to deceive you, and to endeavor by their trifling presents to persuade your madmen to come down and kill us. No; they tell you great lies, and the truth is not in them.

We never ask you to assist us; we never ask you to come down and kill the British;—but in all our talks we have desired you to sit down peaceably and quietly, and mind your hunting. No—the reason is very plain. We are strong enough to beat them ourselves, and they know it—otherwise they would not ask you to help them. They have made our men all warriors, and we shall soon drive them from our country over the other side of the great water.

We shall then sit down in peace and quietness, every man under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall make him afraid. We shall then begin to build large ships again, and trade with all nations, the French, the Spanish, & the Dutch;—we shall then have plenty of goods of all kinds. It is true, this war has made us poor; and we are not ashamed to own it; because our cause is just; but we shall soon be rich and happy, as our countrymen at the northward are already—and if you are determined to be our good friends as you have heretofore been and as willing to be at peace with us, and keep the good old chain of friendship bright, and the path straight, fair and open—we will then love you as friends, and take you to our bosoms; and you shall share our riches and happiness with us.

Friends and brothers, we hope you'll remember all we have now told you, and hope you'll give this talk to your head men and warriors. Brothers, we have told you all we have to say to you now, and wish you a pleasant and an agreeable journey, and a happy sight of your friends and families.

Augusta, 15th Jan. 1782.

Sir:—

Agreeable to the enclosed resolution of the honorable the House of Assembly, you are hereby required to deliver to Mr. Daniel McMurphy all public papers belonging to this State, which may be in your hands, taking his receipt for the same. You'll please to have the trunks, &c., sealed and the keys sent under seal to our Delegates in Congress,

I am sir,

Your most obt. serv't,

Edm'd Davies, Esq'r.

J. M.

Augusta, 19th of January, 1782.

Sir:—

I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 14th inst., by Col. Eustace, and am pleased that the military operations of this infant and distressed State are, by the Honorable Major Gen'l Greene, committed to the care of a gentleman whose military talent has already rendered him so conspicuous both in Europe and America. I mean not to flatter, sir, but only to give real merit her just

due, and doubt not but duty, as well as inclination, will lead you to exert every power for the protection of the citizens, and the total extirpation of the enemy from this State; and you may rest assured that I will give you every support, aid and assistance, and co-operate with you in every measure that will tend to this essential and desirable purpose.

I have already issued orders to the respective officers for one-half of the militia of this State to be immediately drafted and imbodyed (except the County of Wilkes, they being a frontier, and one-third of them are ordered out) and to march to camp by the 26th inst., in order to act in concert with the Continental troops you have now with you. They are to do duty for two months, at which period they will be relieved by an equal number—I have likewise ordered a Commissary and quarter-master, to proceed to camp in order to provide proper provisions & forage for the support and maintenance of the whole in the field. I have also collected and sent down such boats as could be procured to the Two Sisters, agreeable to your request, for the immediate crossing of the troops on this side. Your observations respecting the opening a wide door for the reception of such citizens as have taken protection or joined the enemy are in my opinion extremely just and humane, and such as good policy at this crisis would undoubtedly dictate. I have more than once urged those very measures during the setting of the late House of Assembly, which were entirely disregarded, and not the least attention paid to them. Owing to the repeated injuries and distresses those very characters have brought upon the virtuous citizens of this State, nature would not be nature could it immediately forget injuries like those, which impressions are only to be erased by time—but those very characters among the enemy are of such a nature (some few excepted) that I am confident the citizens of this State would rather meet them in the open field than suffer them to remain among them, and think in that situation they would be less able to do us mischief. You cannot, sir, be sensible of the misery and distress they have been a means of bringing on this once flourishing, but now unhappy country, nor can you possibly have an idea of the feelings of men in this situation. However, I am not yet out of hope, and think that something important may still be done in this business at a future day.

I would beg leave to urge the necessity of a body of regular Infantry to give support, stability and confidence to the militia; you must be sensible what militia are, (tho' I flatter myself ours are good or I am much deceived; they

have been tried), therefore must be thoroughly convinced they never will stand the bayonet, without a support of this kind.

I imagine we shall be able with the draft of one-half of the militia to bring about three hundred effective men into the field, exclusive of Col. Jackson's troops and Infantry belonging to this State, which I expect will be complete in a fortnight, and will consist of about 40 horse & fifty foot, Col. McKay's corps of Volunteers consisting of about eighty men well mounted, and Maj. Moore's Regmt. of Carolina State Dragoons, consisting of one hundred and sixty well mounted; the above corps have orders to reconnoiter the country, cover your crossing and to join you immediately on this side. You will therefore from this estimate be the best judge of what number of regular infantry will be sufficient to carry on your future operations. In the interim I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem & respect y'r honor's obt. and very humble serv't,

J. M.

P. S.—I beg leave to hint to you that we have a great scarcity of salt and ammunition, likewise of corn & fodder; and the back inhabitants of this State are at this time in the greatest distress for grain for the support of themselves and families. Whether a supply of those articles could not be procured from Carolina to be refunded on a future day?

The Honorable Brig. Gen. }
Wayne at Camp. } Hon'd by Col. Eustace.

Augusta, 29th Jan'y, 1782.

Dr. Sir:—It is with pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 24 instant, enclosing a duplicate of yours of the 14, which I had rec'd. I now have the honor of enclosing you a duplicate of a letter I wrote you by Mr. Donally, to be delivered to Col. Cooper, by whose hands I hope you have rec'd it. It was to have been conveyed to you by Col. Eustace who went off and left my dispatches, and beg leave to refer you to the same.

I shall endeavor by every possible means to supply you with provisions & forage, but am afraid they will be small from this part of the country, as the inhabitants hereabouts are greatly distressed for subsistence. Therefore am apprehensive we must have recourse to Carolina, where, am confident, there is plenty to be had.

The late House of Assembly have not furnished me with the means of supply any otherwise than by certificates, redeemable by the sale of the forfeited estates in December next; and the inhabitants of Beech Island in Carolina (our principal granary at present) have combined together, and will not sell a single bushel without the cash, which we have not got; and I being possessed of no powers without the limits of this State cannot take a single bushel of grain from them. I must therefore request that (as a Continental gen'l officer) you would furnish the Qr. Mr. or Com'ys with sufficient powers to impress corn & forage in Carolina as the only effectual means of supply.

I am extremely sorry the militia have not been able to co-operate with you sooner, owing to a former draft being nearly expired, and being under the absolute necessity of ordering a new draft; however, I hope they'll now be able shortly to join you, by detachments or otherwise, as every exertion on my part is now, and has been making.

I have given the necessary orders for the immediate repair of the bridges between the Sisters and Ebenezer, which hope will speedily be effected. I hope to have the honor of being with you shortly. Interim, I am with the greatest esteem & respect y'r honor's most obedient
& very hble. servant,

The hon'ble

J. M.

Brig'r Gen'l Wayne, in Camp;
Per Express.

Augusta, Feb. 3rd, 1782.

Dr. Sir:—

I did myself the honor of writing to you per the return of the express, in answer to your favor of the 24th ulto., covering a duplicate of a letter I wrote you some time since, which I hope has safely reached your hands.

I flatter'd myself of being with you in this; but unavoidable delays have retarded the march of the militia longer than I expected, and business of a civil nature has detained me. However, I hope the militia will now speedily join you at Ebenezer, and I shall follow in a few days after, myself, as I am extremely anxious to see them in forwardness before I leave this.

The foot militia in field I am apprehensive will fall something short of the numbers I mentioned to you in my letter, owing to an expedition being formed against the Cherokee

nation, by the States of North and So. Carolina in which this State is called upon for their assistance, to co-operate with them in this undertaking, and Col. Clarke with the Wilkes County militia are obliged to proceed upon this business, which will for the present deprive us of about eighty men in the field; however I am in hopes we shall not fall far short, as numbers have turned out and joined the volunteer corps now with you, under Cols. McKay and Baker.

I hope you have furnished the different departments with sufficient powers for procuring a supply of corn and forage from Carolina, as I can see no possibility of effecting it on this side, the inhabitants of the upper parts of this State being so amazingly distressed for those articles, owing to their being constantly on duty for this twelve months past, and many of them not having it in their power to raise a single bushel of grain.

I am, with the greatest esteem & respect, your honor's most obt. & very humble servant,

J. M.

The Honorable Brig. Gen'l Wayne,
at Camp.

I must beg the favor of you to endeavor, if possible, to effect the liberation of Col. Wyly, now within the enemy's lines, at Savannah, a gentleman who has been a long time in captivity with his family, and in the greatest distress, not having been able to procure any kind of supplies from his friends. If this business could be effected I should be extremely happy. You'll have this handed to you by Col. Jackson, of the Georgia State Legion, a friend of mine. He is a gentleman and a soldier, I beg leave to introduce him to your acquaintance as one worthy of your confidence.

To the Honorable Brig. Gen'l Wayne.

Augusta, Feb. 3rd, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

If you recollect, when in Augusta, you mentioned to me you had some intentions of becoming a citizen of Georgia, likewise many of your corps, provided you & they have any encouragement from this State. I have the pleasure to inform you, that I have consulted Council on this head,

and find them extremely agreeable, and I am authorized to make you the following proposals, that is, provided they engage for 12 months, or during the war, to allow the privates for Continental pay, and two hundred and fifty acres of land, and the officers in proportion to their rank. If these terms should be agreeable, I should be extremely happy. In the interim, I am with perfect esteem

Dr. Sir, Yr. most obt. Servant

P. S.—I expect to be at camp shortly. Please write me on this head as speedily as possible.

Maj'r John Moore, Com'g the
State troops of So. Carolina,
Camp.

Augusta, 9 Feb'y, 1782.

Dr. Sir:—

I was extremely happy in receiving your obliging favor of the 9th of Jan., ultimo, wherein you mention you have just been informed by the Speaker of our House of Assembly of my appointment to the arduous and unthankful office of Chief Magistrate of this State; an office unexpected, unasked and unsolicited by me. It was by the free voice of my country. I was therefore, of course, dragged into it unwillingly; therefore, if I should not answer their expectations they have only themselves to blame. However, I flatter myself they have appointed a firm and staunch friend to the independence of America, and I can assure them the small share of abilities I possess are entirely devoted to their service.

I sincerely wish I may be able to conduct myself through this troublesome business with propriety to myself, and satisfaction to the public. The moment a man is appointed to an elevated station in life, he that moment becomes a target for every fool to level his arrows at. I expect many rubs, anxieties, and unpleasant moments. If I should not, I shall be greatly disappointed; therefore, shall prepare myself for their reception and endeavor to plunge through them if possible. I may err from the head, but I flatter myself not from the heart. I shall endeavor to act with a conscious rectitude, and proceed straight forward, without looking partially to the right hand or to the left; therefore, whatever censures I may receive during my administration, I flatter myself when they come to be investigated by a candid, an impartial world, they'll at least allow me to be the honest man.

I observe you say in your letter, "if you are the gentleman from Rhode Island to whom I had the honor of being introduced at the Congaree, I am happy in the choice, and beg leave to congratulate you on your appointment, but if you are not the gentleman I must trust to your good nature to pardon the freedom of this familiar introduction, founded upon the supposition of the gentleman's being a countryman of mine"—

I must sir, in the first place inform you that I am the gentleman from Rhode Island who had the honor of being introduced to you, upon the Congaree, and am also happy in the pleasing reflection that I am a countryman of yours.

The appointment of Gen. Wayne to take command in this State is perfectly agreeable. An officer of his distinguished merit, and tried experience, must and does give general satisfaction, and may depend I shall give every support, aid and assistance, and will cheerfully co-operate with him in any measure that will tend to the total extirpation of the enemy from this infant & distressed State. The judicious appointment of two such officers to command in the Southern Department is, in my humble opinion, a pleasing presage of future success and happiness. I heartily congratulate you on the late honorable acknowledgments Congress have been pleased to pay to your merits in the battle of the Eutaw.

I have ordered out one-half of the militia of this State for a fixed period (two months), which I believe will amount to about three hundred foot, besides Col. Jackson's Legion of this State, consisting of about 40 horse & 50 foot, and about 100 volunteer horse. I should have been able to have turned out a few more in the field, had it not been for the frequent alarms on the frontiers, by the Indians and Tories, which must be protected; and an expedition against the Cherokee nation being now undertaken by the States of North & South Carolina, in which this State is called upon for her aid and assistance in this business. Col. Clarke has, of course, gone with the Wilkes County militia; therefore have not been able to draw a single man from thence.

Your observations respecting the opening a door for the reception of the disaffected of our State, with particular exceptions, are in my opinion extremely just and humane, and such as good policy, at this crisis, would undoubtedly dictate. I have more than once urged those very measures during the setting of the late House of Assembly, which were entirely disregarded and not the least attention paid to them. Owing to the repeated injuries and distresses those

very characters have brought upon the virtuous citizens of this State, nature would not be nature could it immediately forget injuries like those which impressions are only to be erased by time; but those very characters among the enemy are of such a nature (some few excepted) that I am confident the citizens of this State would rather meet them in the open field than suffer them to remain among them, and think in that situation they would be less able to do us mischief. You cannot, sir, be sensible of the misery and distress they have been a means of bringing on this once flourishing but now distressed and unhappy country, nor can you possibly have an idea of the feelings of men in their situation; therefore they have great reason for their implacability. However, I am not out of hope, and still think that something important may yet be done in this business, on a future day. In my letter to General Wayne, I have urged the necessity of a body of regular infantry to give support, stability and confidence to the militia. You are very sensible what militia in general are, tho' I flatter myself ours are good, or I am much deceived. They have been tried, therefore must be thoroughly convinced they will never stand the bayonet, without a support of this kind. Your observations in respect to plundering are, in my opinion, extremely just and politic; it is a diabolical practice, and one that I am determined to crush. I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem, & respect,

Your Excellency's most obt. serv't,

J. M.

His Excel'y Maj. Gen'l Greene.

Augusta, 6th March, 1782.

Sir:—

I have received your kind favor of the 3rd Feb'y, ultimo, informing of your detaining a number of negroes at the Yaddin Ford, in the possession of Col. McMurphy, and that they are suspected to be plundered property, and that they appear to belong to one Dill, a tory whose property is confiscated by a late act of Assembly. I am extremely obliged to your Excellency, for this friendly information, and am therefore to request that you'll please give the necessary orders, and have the said negroes disposed of as speedily as possible, in the most convenient and advantageous manner, for the benefit of this State, transmitting an account sales of the

same to me as early as possible, the proceeds for the present to be lodg'd as your Excellency may think proper to direct, until you may receive further advice from me. In the meantime, I am with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obt. and very hble. serv't,

His Excell'y
Gov. Martin of No. Carolina.

J. M.

Augusta, 14 March, 1782.

Gentlemen:—

Your favor of the 3 & 12th Dec., & of the 9th Jan'y, three from his Excellency the President of Congress, the 24th Sept., 30th Nov. and 17th Dec., four from the financier, Rob't Morris, Esq., 17th Nov., 6th, 19th & 21st Dec., one from Robert R. Livingston, Esquire, of 12th Nov., and one from his Excellency Gen. Washington, of the 19th December—all of which I have had the honor of receiving. The many weighty and important matters therein contained, wherein the safety and independence of this State is so essentially concerned, has, by and with the advice and consent of the honorable the Executive Council, induced me to convene the House of Assembly of this State at a much earlier period than that which it stood adjourned to, in order to lay the same before them for their consideration, & doubt not but every attention will be paid to the respective recommendations therein contained, as far as the nature & situation of this country will admit of. The various struggles we have had, and which we daily experience, and the present distressed situation of this country, will admit of but small exertions; our inclinations are good, but our abilities are small. We therefore stand in great need of every support and assistance which I flatter myself Congress will not be unmindful of. The conduct of the military operations in this State was, by the Honorable Major General Greene, committed to the care of Brig. Gen'l Wayne, an officer whose abilities are too well known to need a comment, and who is much approved of here. He entered this State the beginning of January last, with about one hundred and twenty horse, which threw the enemy into such a panick that they immediately abandon'd their outposts, destroy'd all the provision & forage in the vicinity of Savannah, & fled into the town with precipitation, where they have ever since been cooped up by that force, with

the addition of Col. Jackson's Legion of this State, consisting of about 40 horse, and 50 foot & about 100 militia—altho' their force, from the best information, is about 1,500 or 2,000 men, including militia. They doubtless at first must have conceived Gen. Wayne's force to have been much greater than it really was. Gen. Wayne, I'm informed, has been down near the lines of Savannah, and has destroy'd all their forage at the Governor's Plantation at Yamacraw and at Hutchinson's Island. General Barnwell co-operated with Gen'l Wayne from the Carolina side. In this manoeuvre about six or eight of the militia of Carolina were either killed or taken in this enterprise, which is all the loss we have met with, and I believe that was principally occasioned by their own imprudence. I have received no official accounts from Gen. Wayne as yet, respecting it; but it comes well authenticated, & I believe is beyond a doubt. Altho' the enemy at Savannah are so vastly superior in force to us, yet they seldom or ever venture without their lines. I believe the principal cause is they are afraid of trusting their own men, as desertions from them are very prevalent, which they embrace every opportunity, and numbers of Hessians and others have come out from time to time which all their vigilance is not able to prevent. The troops in Savannah from every information are much dissatisfied.

The distresses of the inhabitants of this State for the want of provisions has prevented my giving that support to the operations of Gen. Wayne that I could have wished. Many of the inhabitants in the upper part of this State have not tasted any thing of bread kind this six weeks past, and it is almost impossible to turn out men under these circumstances, for, by the constant duty they were heretofore on, they lost their former crops, & if they are now drawn into the field they would of course lose the ensuing, and we should be obliged to quit the country for want of provisions; however, I'm in great hopes I shall be able to alleviate their distresses in some measure by an application to Carolina for a quantity of rice for their present support, and if we can possibly rub through for a month or two longer, I'm in hopes we shall do much better, as we have prospects of fine crops of wheat this season. This State is much in want of arms, ammunition, clothing and salt. We are without money and no mode of supply unless Congress could fall on some plan of doing it. We have, it is true, had some temporary supplies of ammunition from General Greene, but those are nearly exhausted. I am requested by the hon'ble the Executive Council to desire you would, without loss of time, inquire into

the expenditure or appropriation of the 30,000 levies granted for the use of this State, and transmit an account of the same to me as early as possible. Altho' civil government is established in the States, yet still our unhappy situation is such that it is morally impossible to carry the laws fully into effect.

Plundering and killing have heretofore been frequent in this country. That was a time, perhaps, when it was justifiable, but that time is now past, and I am determined to crush those horrid practices in future, as far as lays in my power. I have enclosed you three proclamations lately issued: one for the reception of deluded citizens (great numbers of which have already come in), one to encourage desertion from the enemy (this has been published in German, as well as English language), and one calling the House of Assembly to meet at Augusta the third Tuesday in April next. For further particulars I beg leave to refer you to Col. Few, by whom you'll receive this & who is competent to give you every necessary information. Interim, I have the honor to be, gen'm'n

Your most obt. & very humble serv't,

J. M.

To the Hon. the Delegates for the
State of Georgia in Congress, Philadelphia.

Augusta, 14th March, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

You'll have this handed you by Mr. Douglass, who has leave to visit his friends at Augusta and then return to camp. I am sorry to find many of his countrymen are very inveterate against him, tho' in my opinion undeservedly. His life, I'm informed, has been attempted more than once, and am afraid if I had not particularly interfered he would have been murdered.

I am confident it would have been out of my power to give him sufficient protection was he at present to stay here longer. There was, a few days since, a most notorious instance of this kind happened; a citizen was coolly and deliberately killed at noon day, by one of our back inhabitants. I immediately took the necessary measures for securing the murderer, but my orders were disobeyed, as opposition was threatened. The person who killed the man I'm informed afterwards gave as a reason that the man killed was the

means of the death of his father; but if justice is prevented, and every man to be a judge in his own cause, there will shortly be no safety in this country. We should call the military in to our aid, which is a sad alternative. I am very sorry the corn has not reached your camp sooner, owing to a neglect in some of the departments, for which I shall have them called to a severe account.

The inhabitants of the upper part of this State are almost perishing for provisions; many of them have not eat any bread kind for this three weeks past. If you could possibly have the boats loaded with rice on their return, it would be of infinite advantage to many of the suffering inhabitants this way. Mr. Douglass, Captain Cuthbert, & Mr. Glasscock were unfortunately taken prisoners & paroled by a small party from Savannah. The principals were Weatherford, Lyons, & Webster. There is a quantity of corn impressed by Mr. Oates on Beech-Island agreeable to your orders. Whether a proportion of it could not be spared for this post, as there is no prospect of procuring it on the Georgia side, for the relief of the inhabitants? I'm confident the reason why the people have been so tardy in turning out is the present distress of their families and their preparing for a future crop. I am informed there are numbers of the citizens who have come in from the enemy. I have ordered them all for camp immediately. I have, with the advice of the Council, thought proper to call the Assembly to meet at Augusta the third Tuesday in April next, who will doubtless adjourn to Ebenezer. I would be extremely happy in hearing from you, and am with the greatest respect and esteem,

Your honor's most obt. & very humble serv't,

J. M.

Hon'ble Brig. Gen. Wayne.

Augusta, 14th March, 1782.

Sir:—

Nothing but the present deplorable situation of this country, & the starving condition of the greatest part of the inhabitants, many of whom have not tasted bread kind for more than a month past, could have induced me to trouble your Excellency on this occasion; but impressed with the idea that our distresses, which have been owing to the accumulated horrors of war this country has experienced for this

four years past, might entitle us to hope for some small relief for the present from our sister State, has encouraged me to make this application. Could your Excellency, either in a public capacity or by private recommendation, assist us in the procuring about five hundred barrels of clean rice, the favor will be most gratefully acknowledged, and you may depend I shall take the earliest and most effectual method of having it paid for, as soon as the nature of our affairs will admit. Mr. Wereat, a gentleman who I am informed you are well acquainted with, is the bearer of this, will be able more fully to inform your Excellency of the necessity of this measure, which when you have considered I am fully persuaded you will not in the least wonder at. It was some time in June last, when this country was rescued by its citizens out of the hands of the British, when most of them found only empty houses and barren fields. It was then too late, and our situation by most thought too precarious to attempt making a crop.

The few who stayed at home and made some small effort to raise provisions were too inconsiderable in number to supply those that were obliged in a manner constantly to keep the field, in order to retain the small and desolated part of the country we were possessed of. This is literally the true picture of this country, aggravated by the cries of widows & orphans with which it in all parts abound. Fully relying on the goodness and humanity of your heart, to promote this essential business as much as possible,

I am, with the truest regard, your Excellency's most obt. and very humble servant,

His Excellency the Governor
of South Carolina.

Augusta, 14th March, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I am greatly concerned at not having it in my power to furnish you regularly with so large a number of militia, as I heretofore intimated; and altho' I have made use of every exertion in my power, yet the present unhappy situation of this country is such that I find it impossible to draw out a larger force at a time than you have with you at present. I am to inform you, sir, that it was June, last year, before the inhabitants that were at the retaking of this country

had an opportunity of putting their grain in the ground, and being almost constantly on duty at the same time, their fields were neglected, and of course very little made, which has brought on the great scarcity we at present experience the inconvenience of; and I can assure you that many families in the upper parts have not had a mouthful of bread for more than a month past. The planting season is again arrived, and if this opportunity is omitted of putting their fields in order, and sowing their grain, they and their families must inevitably perish, or be obliged to quit the State; not to mention the many daily murders committed, in which women & children are not excluded, making it absolutely necessary that a patrol be kept constantly on duty in every settlement for its security. These reasons alone, & not an aversion to the service, makes them so backward in turning out at this time. Under these melancholy circumstances it is very hard to get men into the field. I have been obliged lately to apply to the Governor of South Carolina for rice for our present support, & if it should be obtained shall have it distributed among the necessitous, which will cause the men to turn out with more alacrity. If your regular infantry are arrived, or a prospect of their coming soon and the militia can possibly be spared from camp till their crops are in the ground, I'm confident they may then be readily drawn into the field, and in the interval a continuance of my exertions shall not be wanting to keep you as largely supplied as possible. I am fully convinced Gen. Twiggs's going to the northward at the time he did was unfortunate for this country; for in his absence there was not an officer for the militia to look up to as their chief in the field, or to enforce my orders generally, and as Col. Clarke who is next in command was at that time engaged on an Indian expedition; for had he remained, thro' his influence a greater number might at first have been drawn out, being heretofore constantly with them on all occasions. I fully concur with you in sentiments respecting volunteer corps and should never have suffered either McKay's or Carr's, to have gone down, if the militia could have been drafted and got out time enough to have rendered you any assistance at your first coming into this State. I have since reduced them, but as they were chiefly composed of Carolinians will not add many to our Militia, and have only retained a few under proper restrictions as a scout during the present alarm on the frontiers of Burke & Effingham Counties. Observing when in camp that your troops appeared to be in great want of tobacco, I shall purchase some as soon as possible and send

down for their use, as nothing contributes more to health in this climate than that plant. I do myself the honor to enclose some letters lately intercepted on their way to the Indian nation, copies of which I have retained. Mr. Wereat, who delivers these dispatches, is very intelligent and capable of giving you every further and necessary information respecting our present situation. He is a very particular friend of mine, and whom I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance. In the mean time I am with the highest sentiments of respect, your honor's most obt. & very humble servant,

Hon'ble Brigadier Gen'l Wayne.

Augusta, 15th March, 1782,

Dear Sir:—

I did myself the honor of writing to you on the 9th Feb., ultimo, in answer to your first letter; since which I have received yours of the 2nd covering copies of two letters you wrote to the Gov. of So. Carolina respecting the raising of black corps. In consequence whereof, and on receipt of several other dispatches from Congress of an important nature, and on consulting with General Wayne, I have by the advice and consent of the Executive Council of this State issued my proclamation for convening the General Assembly at a much earlier period than that which it stood adjourned to & shall then lay the several recommendations therein contained before them and make no doubt but they will be attended to as far as our present distressed situation will admit. The raising a body of blacks I am sure would answer every purpose intended, but am afraid it will not go down with the people here. However, it shall not want my exertions to carry it into effect.

Major Habersham of the Georgia Continental troops has undertaken to find out the different officers now in this State and to ascertain their ranks and dates of commissions; their distressed situation will necessarily make it some time before he can complete it, but as soon as done will have it transmitted to you. Our great want of arms, ammunition, clothing & salt—no money or mode of supply & our very great want of grain—render it impossible to make any extraordinary exertions at this time, & keeps me with regret from affording that assistance to Gen. Wayne which my heart could wish. The inhabitants losing their crops generally

last year by being almost on constant duty and not having planted 'till the season was nearly past, makes them apprehensive of the dreadful consequences that must ensue their neglecting the present opportunity of getting their grain in the ground. This, and their necessitous situation for almost **every necessity of life, and not an aversion to their country's service**, makes them so tardy in turning out. I have by this opportunity wrote to the Governor of South Carolina, for a quantity of rice sufficient for our present support, and if it can be obtained shall have it immediately given to the proper objects, which I'm in hopes will make those at present so anxious for the preservation of their families, many of whom have not tasted bread kind for more than a month past, turn out with their accustomed alacrity. Indeed, sir, it is impossible to get men into the field under such melancholy circumstances. If the infantry General Wayne has expected for some time are arrived, and the militia could possibly be spared 'till their grain is in the ground, it would be of public utility, and a famine thereby prevented, and I'm confident one half of them at least & more if there should be an occasion, might then be kept constantly in the field. General Twiggs's going to the northward at the time he did has been attended with very bad consequences, for his influence, by having been always on duty with the militia, would have induced them cheerfully to turn out when drafted. I have now no officer to enforce my orders generally, nor the militia any one to look up to in camp as their chief. These little circumstances are of great importance among them. Mr. Wereat, of this State, who will have the honor of handing this to your Excellency, is capable of giving you every further information respecting our local situation, and one whom I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance. I have the honor to be with the highest sentiments of respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's, &c.

Honorable Major Gen'l Greene.

Augusta, 16th March, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I this moment had the honor of receiving your favor of the 9th inst., and duly notice the contents. I am extremely unhappy in not having been able to give you that support & assistance at first expected; for further particulars on that head beg leave to refer you to my dispatches of yesterday.

I shall give the necessary orders for the second division of militia to march within the time but must reiterate my request respecting the expediency of their being indulged 'till their corn is planted, if they can possibly be spared. Apropos in respect to forming volunteer corps, in your letter of Feb. 1st, ultimo, you strongly recommend the raising a volunteer corps in addition to the militia, to be enlisted for a fixed period under proper officers and subject to the articles of war for the government of the army. I have for this purpose ordered Col. McKay & Captain Carr to meet me next Monday and shall propose their again getting their men together in the manner you point out. If it should be effected I think it will be of infinite advantage to this State, as they chiefly belong to Carolina, and I find it impossible to get them on duty afoot. I likewise think if it could be consistently allowed they would serve with more cheerfulness under the immediate command of their own officers, who are used to their dispositions & manners. I have suspended Mr. Oates, & he has my orders to repair to camp immediately to answer for his neglect of duty and abuse of your authority as a purchasing commissary. I heartily congratulate you on the success of your late enterprise, and think it was an exceeding good plan. I am greatly obliged to you for the Chastown paper and shall be glad you would send them as often as opportunities offer, for I'm entirely out of the circle of news, and seldom get it thro' any other channel. I shall be glad to be favored with your sentiments as early as possible respecting the militia and raising of McKay's & Carr's volunteers in the manner I have mentioned. If I can possibly be with you before the meeting of the Assembly I most assuredly will do myself that pleasure, & am glad to find Gen. Marion's affair not so bad as reported. Interim, &c.

P. S.—I have given orders to the Quartermaster General to send the wagons to camp, which will be immediately done; Mr. Stirk informs that it was your particular desire.

Hon. Brig. Gen'l Wayne.

Augusta, 22 March, 1782.

Sir:—

I am just informed that the inhabitants of your county have drove several gangs of cattle from Burke belonging to the inhabitants of that county, into Wilkes, and that forty others are daily expected there on the same horrid

business. You must be sensible of the villainy of such practices so destructive of the public tranquillity. I therefore request that you will immediately send orders to the different field officers of your county to be vigilant in apprehending & securing all such parties of men, and to prevent it in future as much as possible.

Col. Elijah Clarke,
Wilkes County.

I am, &c.,
J. M.

Augusta, March 23rd, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I had the honor of writing you by my friend, Mr. Wereat, the 15th and 16th instant, since which I have had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 15th by Captain Bell. You'll have this handed you by Col. Clarke who comes to take command of the militia in the field, a gentleman whose vigilance and activity in the cause of his country has rendered him very conspicuous in the eyes of his countrymen. He has requested that Carr's Corps might be permitted to proceed to camp with him; as a Volunteer Corps they are broke, and now go under the denomination of mounted militia. I have done my utmost to endeavour to get them properly organized, but all to no purpose. It is morally impossible to get them to do duty on foot. They will be subject to your orders; if you can possibly find employment for them for the present either in reconnoitering the enemy, or on some separate command to the southward. I am informed Mr. Girt* and a number of Tories have collected a large property belonging to this State consisting of negroes, horses, cattle, etc. I think if we can secure the property that way it may be a help towards raising our Continental quota. I only throw this out as a hint for your further consideration, and I think if you should not have an immediate use for those men at camp they would answer for an expedition of that nature. The militia are drafted and collecting, and have the pleasure to inform you they will march speedily. I am much indebted to the vigilance of Col. Clarke in this business. I am very happy to find the militia & reclaimed citizens have merited your approbation. It must be a pleasing reflection to them and, I hope will stimulate others in future.

I have the honor, &c.,

Hon. Brig. Gen'l Wayne.

*McGirth (?)

Augusta, 24th March, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I omitted in my letter of yesterday informing you that I have ordered Col. Wade, D'y Quarter Master General, the bearer of this, down to your headquarters that he may arrange the business of his department & rectify the abuses or mistakes that may have been committed.

He brings with him all the wagons that can be spared from this post. They are inconsiderable in number, but hope will be of service to you. Major Lucas & Captains Glasscock and Booker, who arrived here last night immediately from Virginia, inform that it was confidently reported that the homeward bound Jamaica fleet was captured in the Channel by the combined fleets, & that scarcely one escaped. They likewise bring certain accounts that the Virginia Line had marched thro' Charlotte a few days before they got there, and General Greene informs me that he intends them for this State.

I have the honor to be, &c.

Hon. Brig. Gen. Wayne.

Augusta, 10th April, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I sincerely thank you for your very polite and obliging favors of the 12th & 26th ultimo. I wish I may merit a continuance of the favorable opinion, you are pleased to say, people in general, entertain of me. I thank you for your good wishes. Your sentiments respecting the policy of Legislatures are extremely just, and exactly coincide with my own. When I mentioned that nature would not be nature if it forgave injuries like theirs, I only meant to account in some measure for the implacability of the community at large towards those deluded people; and, not to express my own sentiments or feelings on that occasion. The General Assembly meet here on Tuesday next. I am confident exertions will not be wanting to raise as great a proportion of our Continental quota of troops as the present weak and distressed situation of this State will admit.

Every encouragement is given by me to the planters; but am apprehensive, notwithstanding all my endeavors, we shall be much distressed by the militia being kept in the field at this time. In order to gain a respite for them, I am endeavoring to raise a corps of about 200 rifle-

men enrolled for two months to serve in their stead, and am to allow each of them a cow & calf, exclusive of pay. This is exceeding the authority allowed me by law, but the necessity of the step, and the good consequences that will result therefrom I hope will justify it, & plead my excuse.

I am truly sensible of, & sincerely thank you for your friendly assistance to this unhappy country, and do not in the least doubt of your future support and exertions in our favor. I would be much obliged to you for the news papers, occasionally, as I seldom obtain any thro' any other channel.

This State is much distressed at present for want of ammunition, & if you could supply us with 200 or 300 lbs. of powder & lead in proportion, it may answer 'till our supplies arrive from Philadelphia. One cause of the great consumption of ammunition is, that our back inhabitants are obliged to support their families almost entirely with gunning.

I am, &c.,

Maj. Gen'l Greene.

Augusta, 10th April, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I have been duly honored with your favors of the 26th & 31st ultimo. Every exertion has been made to forward the second draft of the militia to camp. I hope they are by this time with you. They turn out with reluctance at this time, & I am fearful it will be productive of melancholy circumstances, as they must suffer in their crops amazingly; there is, however, too great a necessity for it. I sincerely wish it could have been avoided with safety. Agreeable to your requisition I have already given orders, and an attempt is now making to raise a corps of rifle-men to be enrolled for two months, and their times not to commence 'till they arrive at camp. In this affair I have exceeded my powers in giving each, as a bounty, one cow & calf immediately upon enrolling, exclusive of pay. I find great fault with that part of our Constitution which lodges no exclusive power in the executive authority, in cases of emergency. The service, however, requires an adoption of the present measures, and it is a determined & fixed principle with me to support you in your operations as far as I possibly can—the immediate safety of the country demands it. I am happy in finding Col. Clarke was much pleased with his reception at camp. He is now exerting every nerve to raise the rifle corps, and forward the militia.

I flatter myself I shall very shortly be able to send you between 100 & 200 of the former, & doubt not of their rendering essential service to you.

I am happy to inform you I have procured a supply of rice from the Governor of Carolina, but am afraid it will be some time before I get it conveyed to this post, by not having a sufficient number of wagons.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

Hon. Brig. Gen'l Wayne.

Augusta, Ga., 16th April, 1782.

Mr. Speaker & Gentlemen:—

The many weighty & important matters I have to communicate to your honorable House, wherein the safety, prosperity & happiness of this country is so essentially concerned, has, by the advice of the honorable the Executive Council, induced me to call you together at a much earlier period than that to which you stood adjourned.

It is with heartfelt pain I reflect on the misery & distress of the poor, suffering, but virtuous inhabitants of this State, who, for want of common sustenance, are now reduced to a perishing condition. It has been principally occasioned by the wanton waste of grain heretofore expended, which, had it been dealt out with the least degree of economy, would have been more than sufficient to have answered every exigency, & prevented those calamities we at present unhappily experience; but those evils I have endeavored to remove as far as lay in my power by an application to our sister State for a quantity of rice, to relieve us from our present distressed situation, & am happy to inform you that I have in part succeeded, which hope may be a means of removing those difficulties, and the alarming situation we at present labor under, until the return of our next crops, which I am happy to be informed are promising. The raising of our Continental quota of troops, for the defence and protection of this State, the revision of the militia law, whereby the services may be equally borne, and the establishment of public faith, are in my opinion matters of such an important nature, wherein the well being, safety, happiness, and independence of this State is so essentially concerned, that I cannot help recommending the same to your honorable House in the most earnest and pressing terms, to take the same into your serious consideration and fall upon

such immediate measures, as will best effect those grand & desirable purposes.

I would beg leave to recommend the establishing a Court of Claims to determine the right of contested property, so essentially necessary at this time to quiet the minds of people. I would also most earnestly recommend the subject of the boundaries of this State to be taken into your immediate consideration. I think it would be wise and expedient that a shorter & explicit act do pass ascertaining and declaring the same as objects of negotiation may speedily take place, & in that case we shall be able to produce this act to our aid, on the important subject of boundaries, and that instructions on that head be immediately forwarded to our delegates at Philadelphia.

It is with pleasure I can inform you that, from assurance of our delegates, I have every reason speedily to expect a supply of arms, ammunition & clothing for the use of this State, which we at present so greatly stand in need of.

The American cause is now so well supported by the sword, the timely arrival of the reinforcement to General Wayne, with proper exertions of our own, I flatter myself we shall have little to fear from the power of our enemies.

The enterprising spirit and unremitted perseverance of the brave General Wayne, and the intrepidity of the officers & men under his command, have, under many difficulties, with numbers vastly inferior, happily kept the enemy closely confined to very narrow limits. They are now compelled to seek refuge within the lines of Savannah, whilst we remain in the full & absolute possession of every other part of this State; and the Legislative, Executive, & Judicial powers now enjoy the free exercise of their respective authorities. I most heartily congratulate you on the present pleasing & happy prospect of our affairs, & do not in the least doubt, under the protection of Divine Providence, together with our own exertions, we shall be able to terminate this cruel & bloody war; and once more thoroughly establish our country in peace, liberty and independence.

I sincerely & ardently wish we may soon be reinstated in the full possession and enjoyment of our country, and by steadily adhering to principles of economy and decorum in our public affairs, there cannot be the least doubt of our establishing funds adequate to the support of our internal police, and by pursuing our public measures with decision and rectitude, we shall recover the ground we have lost, and rise superior to the present difficulties and distresses that surround us, & soon equal any State in the

Union. The extent and fertility of our country are well known and well worth contending for.

The interest & honor, the safety & happiness of this Country so much depend on the result of your deliberations, that I doubt not of your proceeding on the same with firmness, temper, unanimity & dispatch.

J. M.

Mr. Speaker, & Gen'mn
of Assembly.

Augusta, 29th April, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Every step has been taken to get as many confiscated negroes as will pay Captain Locke for the horses purchased of him for your Legion; but they cannot be procured up here. He was to have been paid in two months at farthest from the day of sale, and relying on the faith of the State pledged to him at the time, has returned and been waiting here some time at a great expense, in expectation of being paid; and he is willing to assist in collecting the negroes and bringing them to this place to be appraised. As the purchase was principally for your Legion, I would be glad if you will assist Captain Locke in getting as many negroes belonging to the confiscated estates near Savannah as will amount to about £400, the sum due him, & furnish him with a small guard to convey them here, as they will be at the risk of the State 'till they are appraised, and take his receipt for them.

I am, &c.

Col. Jackson of the
Georgia State Legion.

Augusta, 30th April, 1782.

Gentlemen:—

Mr. Jones, late Clerk of the Council, has been obliged, from the inadequateness of the salary, & for want of many necessaries of support, to resign, & no one can be procured capable of discharging that duty for the present salary allowed by the public. The former House which fixed the salaries of public officers had it in idea that the post of Clerk of Council was very lucrative, but I can assure you that he scarcely gets a dollar per month by perquisites, and that there never will be any thing materially got by it

'till the land office is opened, so as to induce any person to accept it for the present salary; and the House of Assembly can, at any time when the perquisites increase, diminish the salary.

I beg leave further to inform the honorable the Assembly that I have been obliged to employ a private secretary, to assist me in transacting public business, as I find I cannot possibly do without one; and it never can be expected that I can support him out of the trifling salary allowed me; I would therefore, be glad if the House would take it into consideration, and enable me to provide suitably for him. I am sorry to inform you that my family is frequently destitute of provisions, & that I have no mode of supplying them but thro' the commissary, who has it not in his power to prevent it, or is very neglectful, and that, in a fit of illness, from which I have not yet recovered, I was obliged to send to my neighbors for every article but sugar & coffee fit for a weak or sick person to eat; and it is a well known fact that there is not a private family in Augusta that lives so wretchedly as mine does, which some of the members of your House can testify.

I have not had since my commencement in office as much money as would purchase the most trifling necessities myself or family stand in need of from time to time.

My family, such of the members of your body (who stay with me for want of public houses) and the Guard have been for some time, and are now, supported by grain procured on my private credit. I flatter myself it is the wish of the House to support the Governor in character, if only for the honor & credit of the State; and not suffer him to become a butt, a laughing stock, to the Continent; it would be a disgrace, a scandal.

I hope, gentlemen, you will consider of these matters, and remedy them as far as the situation of our affairs will admit.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

To the Honorable the
Speaker, &c., of Assembly.

J. M.

Augusta, 3 May, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I have a severe indisposition that has reduced me very low; but have been some days on the recovery, and hope to be perfectly well in a few weeks. I had the honor receiv-

ing your favor of the 17th, ultimo, during my indisposition, and a number of public letters yesterday from Philadelphia, under a cover of Major Fishburn's, each enclosing Gazettes, for all which I am much obliged to you.

The Speaker of the Assembly also writes by this opportunity, and will, I make no doubt, fully inform you of every thing material that has been transacted since their meeting.

His Honor, Gen'l Wayne.

2 o'clock.

P. S.—Lieut. Stallings of Jackson's Legion has this moment waited on me. He informs that yesterday evening he stopped at a house the other side of Brier Creek to refresh his horse which was tired, and to get dinner; that about 3 o'clock six men made a charge upon the house, and the women knew them to be Coopers. It was vain to attempt mounting his horse in that tired condition, and he and young Lyons, the only person with him, made their escape on foot by retiring to a swamp. Your dispatches were in his saddle bags and taken with his horse.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

J. M.

Augusta, 6th May, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Yours of the 22 ultimo I have had the honor of receiving, and sincerely regret that the few militia that have been sent you cannot be kept together. I have given the necessary orders for apprehending and securing the deserters from the different regiments to their commanding officers, and to have the militia law put in full force against them. I can with pleasure inform you that Col. Clarke has raised part of the Rifle Corps and will shortly complete it & bring them to your headquarters. He says they are chiefly young men, can bear fatigue, & capable of executing the boldest enterprise, numbers of them having been with him from the commencement of the war. The Assembly have adjourned since my last, for want of provisions, to the first of July, then to meet at Ebenezer. They have left undone the most material business that induced me to call them together at the time I did. They raised the Continental quota of troops, & an amendment of the militia law. I most sincerely congratulate you for the mark of esteem that Georgia has paid to your merit, tho' far short of my wishes, by which I

observe it is their desire to induce you to settle among us after a conclusion of the war.*

I am, &c.,

Gen'l Wayne.

J. M.

Whereas, information has been lodged with me that sundry negroes belonging to the confiscated estates have been feloniously carried out of this State into the State of Carolina; in consequence thereof I do hereby authorize and appoint Captain John Green to collect the said negroes and keep the same in his possession until called upon for them by me, or the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates; and all officers, both civil and military, are hereby required to aid and assist the said Green in procuring the said negroes.

Given under my hand at Augusta, this
3rd day of May, 1782.

J. M.

Capt. John Green.

Augusta, 23rd May, 1782.

Dear Col.:—

I have received your favor of 21st per express, & am happy to find your family were not murdered, as was reported. Wherever there is an absolute necessity for the protection of the good citizens of this State, every measure tending to that effect I shall always most cheerfully approve of. I have sent you the powder & lead, agreeable to your request. I hope you will lose no time in endeavoring to complete the rifle corps, as speedily as possible, as I have received a very pressing letter from General Wayne, who mentions he wants to see you very much with the riflemen. I hope you will lose no time in this essential business, but be speedily down.

I am, &c.,

Col. E. Clarke,
Wilkes County.

J. M.

N. B.—Don't let any of the rifle-corps be detained by any means, as there will be a sufficient number of the inhabitants for the protection of the settlement.

*This refers to the purchase by the State of the confiscated plantation of Alexander Wright, at a cost of £3,900, and the presentation of the same to General Wayne.

Augusta, 23rd May, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I have had the honor of receiving your favor of 14th inst., enclosing a copy of yours of the 1st. The original was taken by the enemy. Captain Alexander, the bearer of this (I am informed by Col. Clarke), is a worthy man and a good soldier. He commands one of the Rifle Companies which he this morning marched off for your headquarters; I expect one Company more down this day, and another shortly, when shall send them forward with all the dispatch possible. Captain Carr's corps is entirely upon a new plan. It is to consist of two companies, thirty men each, one of Dragoons, the other of Rifle-men, and is called Carr's Independent Corps, and commanded by two captains, two lieutenants, and a captain commandant, with which compliment he is not a little pleased. They will shortly proceed upon the business intended, agreeable to your orders. I think they will be of great service to you, on many occasions. I am in hopes of procuring you some whisky shortly, for the army must, & I am determined shall, be supported as far as lays in my power.

I think appearances on the side of the enemy seem to indicate an evacuation. I pray God it may be the case, and rid us of such troublesome neighbors. Interim I am, &c., &c.,

J. M.

Hon. Brig. Gen'l Wayne.

P. S.—I shortly intend doing myself the pleasure of paying you a visit at Ebenezer.

[The following bears no address, but is indorsed:
"A flag by Messrs. Wallace & Cecil."]

(Copy)

Ebenezer, 27th June, 1782.

My dear Major:—*

By Major Washington I have wrote Gen. Wayne, and inclosed him a list of the names of those persons proscribed in our late confiscation Act, together with a clause for your government in the recruiting service.

*Probably Major John Habersham.

I confess, my dear sir, in many respects the terms there held out are hard, but as Chief Magistrate of the State (who am sworn to preserve the laws inviolate) am compelled to prevent an infringement of the same, if possible. I therefore beg leave to refer you to the General's letter, and expect you'll conduct yourself accordingly. Interim, I am, my dear sir,

Your sincere friend and very humble serv't,

J. M.

P. S.—My kindest respects to my friend LeConte & the gentlemen of the army. Pray let me hear from you, & write me all the news.

(Copy)

Ebenezer, 26th June, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Since my leaving you, I have for my further information once more perused our Act of Confiscation; have therefore taken liberty of enclosing you a list of the names of those persons that are therein proscribed, together with a clause of the said Act. My duty, as the Chief Magistrate of this State, who am sworn to execute the laws, compels me to request that you'll communicate the same to Major Habersham, for his government in raising the Georgia Battalion as speedily as possible. Interim, I have the honor to be, with the highest sentiments of respect & esteem, dear sir, your most obt. and very humb'l servant,

J. M.

Copy to Gen'l Wayne.

N. B.—For God's sake don't forget an express the moment you enter Savannah.

Savannah, 31st July, 1782.

Sir:—

The certificates you may have remaining are much wanted. Therefore would wish you to forward them with every possible dispatch.

I am your most obt. servant,

J. M.

Mr. Dunlap,
Printer, Parker's Ferry.

Savannah, 19th of July, 1782.

To the Tallassee King & the Head Men and Warriors of the Upper and Lower Creek Nation:—

Friends and Brothers of the upper & lower Creek nation, you will remember the talk I gave my good friend & brother the Tallassee King. It was a true and good talk; it spoke nothing but peace and friendship. It spoke the sentiments of my heart, & of my beloved men. They are great truths, and not lies. I told you that our Great Warrior **General Washington** had beat the British great warrior in Virginia, had killed a great many of his soldiers & taken their great warriors and eight thousand prisoners, also many of their large ships, several thousand sailors, with all their cannon, powder and small arms, which had put an end to the war in Virginia. I also told you then that Savannah would soon be ours, and then we should have possession of all this country once more. You are convinced that what I told you then is now true, Savannah is ours once more; you have seen it with your own eyes, & have walked the streets with us with your own feet, and we shall soon have Chas. Town also, and the Spaniards will soon have possession of Augustine, then our ports will be open again, and we shall be able to supply you as usual with goods. You are fully sensible we always spoke peace to you. We never called upon you to assist us in our wars, we never asked you to spill your blood in our cause as the British have done. No, if we had, we should not have basely deserted you by running away, as they have done. No, we always desired you to remain at home quietly and peaceably, and to mind your hunting & support your women & children in peace & happiness.

But no, your madmen, instigated by the treacherous Emistesegoe* and for the sake of a few trifling presents, did wantonly fall on our warriors in the night in hopes of cutting them off, a people that never wanted to injure you but always sought your friendship. And had our warriors have seen them the day before, they would have taken them by the hand & esteemed them as friends & brothers. But happily our people were not asleep; they were on their guard & have amply & fully revenged themselves for the few drops of blood we have lost by killing a number of your headmen & warriors, whose bodies have been left to the ravenous wolves and the birds of the air & whose bones now lay white upon the ground.

*Also called Emitasago and Guristorsigo.

Their women are now widows and their children fatherless and are now left to mourn the unhappy event. Their blood is upon their own heads. They compelled us to do that which we would not wish to do. Brothers, we hope your mad people have seen their error; we hope they will repent & be sorry for what they have done, and once more live wise like yourselves.

We therefore hope you'll immediately deliver up all the commissaries & traders. Likewise all our negroes, horses & cattle that are among you. A proceeding like this will convince us you mean to be our fast & firm friends. It will be the means of burying the hatchet, brightening the good old chain of friendship, and make the path straight, fair and open, so that we shall live like friends & brothers living upon the same land and eating out of the same dish.

We don't wish to be at peace with you because we are afraid. No, you must be convinced it is not the case, for all our warriors are now a hardy race of men, and can undergo any kind of fatigue & surmount any difficulties. They possess sinewy arms & keen cutting swords, and are not afraid to die; & if your madmen should prefer war to peace, & should throw away your friendly & brotherly talks which I now do & have before given them, then we shall be under the disagreeable necessity of going to their towns & lay them in ashes, and make their women widows and their children fatherless. Their dead bodies will cover the ground and be devoured by the wolves of the forest and vultures of the air, and their bones will lay white upon the ground. It is our enemies we mean to threaten, & not our friends. Now, after comparing the horrid & shocking distresses (incident to war) with the tranquil & happy effects of a generous peace, pray let me ask you seriously, as men of sense, who have a regard for their own safety and for the safety of their own dear wives and children, men whom I love, & whom I would wish to take by the hand as friends & brothers—

Brothers, I do not hesitate a moment respecting which you would prefer—the sword, or olive branch. As I told you before, it is not fear that induces us to wish for peace with you, but the affection we have for you, your wives and children. I hope you will be wise, and consider seriously what I have told you, and give us the satisfaction we ask. It is true the English have run away & left us peaceable possession of our capital once more. Friends and brothers, exult and rejoice with me & my people upon this happy occasion. But I am sorry to inform you they have carried away most of the goods with them. However, trade will

flow in upon us shortly, and we shall be able to supply you with goods as formerly.

For the present we will endeavor to collect such articles of goods as we can for you. I shall send some tobacco with you as a token of my friendship to the Nation, in order that my good friend the Tallassee King, his head men & warriors, may smoke together in your great square, so that the white smoke may ascend to the Master of the Breath & be a witness of the sincerity of my intention.

Friends & brothers, I doubt not but you'll remember all I have told you & will repeat in your great square those words which I have now told you. Brothers, I have nothing further to say to you at this time. I therefore wish you a pleasant journey and a happy sight of your friends and families.

J. M.

Savannah, 8th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I had the honor of receiving your favor of the 14th ult., and also acknowledge the receipt of two others, the one by Dr. Ridgely, a gentleman from Maryland, who I am happy to find is likely to become a citizen with us; the other covering copies of letters unto his Excellency Gov. Rutledge, on the subject of raising black corps in the States of South Carolina & Georgia, which I have laid before the Honorable the House of Assembly.

I return your Excellency my sincere thanks for your kind congratulations on the total evacuation of this State by the British, and doubt not this happy event will be a means of restoring tranquillity to every part of the State. I am very sorry you have occasion to withdraw the troops from this State at so early a period, as the good consequences resulting from their longer stay must appear conspicuous, as they would not only have been a means of giving a tone to government but would have thoroughly established the same. I hope we may not soon have occasion for them. As for Col. Jackson's Corps, they are at present annihilated. Their times have nearly expired; and as for Major Habersham's new recruits, they are not to be much depended on at present. However, I hope discipline may reform them, if principle does not.

I am happy to inform your Excellency that our worthy Gen. Wayne, his brave officers & men, have given universal

satisfaction in this country, & I do assure you it is with the greatest degree of regret that we part with them. I thank you for your kind attentions to this little State on all occasions, & am confident it will never want your friendly aid & assistance.

The leveling the works 'round the town (which I think very essential) has employed my particular attention of late, which business is now nearly completed. I think your observations on that head extremely just. Rest assured, my dear sir, that my endeavors shall not be wanting to soften the resentment of parties and correct the abuses which the confusion and disorders of the war have given rise to, & sincerely pray my efforts may not prove abortive. I am directed by the honorable the House of the Assembly to inform your Excellency that they have appointed Frederick Rolphs to the office of Deputy Commissary General of Purchases & Mr. John Strong Deputy Commissary General of Issues, and am requested to recommend those gentlemen to your Excellency as proper persons to fill those offices, & that you would please confirm them in their respective appointments.

I have the honor to be with the highest sentiments of esteem and respect, dear sir,

Your most hble. serv't,

J. M.

His Excellency Maj. General Greene,
Headquarters, So. Carolina.
Honored by His Honor General Wayne.

Savannah, 9th August, 1782.

Sir:—

I am requested by the Honorable the House of Assembly to inform your honor of your appointment by them to the office of Chief Justice of this State with a salary of five hundred pounds sterling per annum annexed. I heartily congratulate your honor on the appointment & should be happy it would meet with your approbation.

I am with sentiments of respect,

Your honor's most obt. & very humble serv't,

J. M.

The Honorable Aedanus Burke, Esq.,
So. Carolina.
Honored by his Honor General Wayne.

Savannah, 9th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of this day (by the hands of Captain Cowen) respecting that unfortunate young man, Mr. Maxwell, and have submitted the same to the consideration of the honorable the Executive Council. They, I'm confident, would wish to pay every attention to any recommendation of Gen. Wayne's, but am requested to inform your Honor that they have taken the matter into consideration, & find that they cannot possibly interfere in the business, as it does not come before them—the law being explicit on that head, which says that those characters whose names are mentioned in the Bill of Attainder shall be committed to jail without bail or mainprize—and we being sworn to support those very laws cannot possibly deviate from them.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of esteem,
Your most obt. & very humble serv't,

J. M.

Hon'ble Brig. Gen'l Wayne,
&c., &c., &c.

Savannah, 13th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Having been informed that there is a probability that the wagons, that were intended to bring down the public arms, ammunition, &c., at Augusta are stopped by Gen. Twiggs and of course those articles still remain there, if this should be the case, which I sincerely hope is not, you will immediately proceed & procure a proper boat & hands & have those articles transported by water under a proper guard to Savannah, where they are much wanted. I hope General Twiggs has not proceeded upon so unjustifiable a measure. I wish it may not be the case, upon his own account, as well as on account of the State, as in that case I shall undoubtedly be under the disagreeable necessity of taking proper notice of the same. I am with esteem, sir,

Your most obt. & very humble serv't,

J. M.

P. S.—I believe Col. Hammond's boat may have arrived at Augusta by this time & I think it would be a proper one for that purpose.

Cornelius Collins, Esq., Maj., &c., Command't at Augusta.

Savannah, August 13th, 1782.

Gentlemen:—

Agreeable to a resolve of the Honorable the House of Assembly, I am allowed ten prime negroes from the confiscated estates for the support of my family. I would therefore request the favor of you gen'n to endeavor (by consent of the Commissioners) to select ten prime slaves from the confiscated estates agreeable to said resolve; but in case the gent'n Commissioners should not think proper to select the negroes, then & in that case you'll please purchase in ten prime slaves for me at all events, & if the negroes go anything reasonable, you'll also please purchase in about six or more for my private account. You'll please observe that they are all to be prime slaves. I am informed there's two fine pier glasses, the property of Parson Seymour, at his place. I would be glad you'd purchase them in for the Government House. Billy Taply can inform where they are, & if any good furniture can be purchased in for Government House, I would be glad you would oblige me in that particular, as at present you must be sensible, it is very bare of those articles & I am confident for the honor of government, you would wish a Governor of the State of Georgia to live in some degree of character. Your kind compliance in that particular will much oblige gentlemen,

Your most obt. and very humble serv't,

J. M.

Messrs. Washington & Odingsell, Commissioners,
County of Chatham.

Savannah, 15th August, 1782.

Gentlemen:—

I am applyed to by Governor Mathews of the State of South Carolina as also by Gen'ls Greene & Pickens for the supply of two thousands bushels salt, for the use of the back inhabitants of South Carolina, & have sent his letter for your inspection on that head. Would therefore be glad to know the lowest price and terms in writing that you would wish to supply the said quantity upon, that I may communicate the same to those gentlemen.

I am gentlemen, your most obt. serv't,

J. M.

Messrs. Mord and Keall &
Owen & Thompson, Merch'ts, Savannah.

Savannah, 15th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I yesterday received your Excellency's favor of the 8th instant, requesting a supply of salt for the use of back inhabitants of your State. I should ever think myself extremely happy in the opportunity of rendering any assistance in my power to our good neighbors, the Carolinians, especially on such an occasion as this. But am sorry the application had not been earlier made, as in that case we could have conveniently included the quantity mentioned in that already procured for the use of this State. However, as I would wish to give every support on this occasion, we will engage to supply your State with five hundred bushels from the quantity procured for our own private stock, provided you should not be able to comply with the terms of the merchants.

I have applied to such merchants here as have salt for sale, and have requested to know the lowest price and terms they would wish to supply that quantity upon (which General Pickens informed is two thousand bushels) and have enclosed your Excellency their terms for your inspection.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of respect & esteem,

Your excellency's most obt. and humble serv't,

J. M.

His Excellency
Gov'r John Mathews,
So. Carolina.

Savannah, 16th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 8th inst., respecting a supply of salt for the back inhabitants of South Carolina, and am truly sensible of their exertions, merit and distresses. You may rely on my attention to them on this occasion.

I have wrote his Excellency General Mathews more fully on this head,

I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obt. humble serv't,

J. M.

His Excell'y
Maj. Gen'l Greene,
So. Carolina.

Savannah, 16th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 9th, inst., and return my sincere thanks for your kind congratulation on the evacuation of the Capital of this State. My feelings for the many distresses & sufferings of the back inhabitants of both States are very great but particularly their sufferings on account of the scarcity of salt.

You may depend I shall make use of every exertion on this occasion for their relief. The quantity may yet be had of the merchants, provided the payments are agreeable. I have applied to them on the subject, and have received their answer, a copy of which I have enclosed to Governor Mathews whom I have wrote more fully on this head.

Your Honor's letter in regard to the Indian Expedition I have received, but have been so hurried with business that have not had time to answer it. However, I shall do myself that pleasure shortly.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of esteem, dear sir, your most obt. and very humble servant,

J. M.

Hon'ble Brig. Gen'l Pickens.

Savannah, 15th August, 1782.

Sir:—

In consequence of assurance being given by some of the first characters of your province to Col. William McIntosh while at Augustine, that provided it was agreeable to the executive authority of this State to put an entire stop to and prevent all plundering and marauding parties in future and for carrying on the war upon a more liberal plan, that they did not doubt it would meet with the approbation and concurrence of your Excellency & Council as also of the Legislature of your Province:

It is with this presumption I am led to address your Excellency on this subject, and should think myself extremely happy provided a negotiation of this kind should take place. In my opinion, it will mutually prove beneficial & advantageous to the industrious inhabitants of your province and of this State.

I have with the advice & consent of the Honorable Executive Council of this State thought proper to nominate and appoint Col. William McIntosh, Samuel Stirk and

John Wereat, Esquires, Commissioners with full and sufficient powers to treat for that purpose, and beg leave to introduce those gentlemen to your Excellency's notice, and expect all due faith, credit and protection may be given them. Interim—

I am with respect your Excellency's most obt. and very humble serv't,

J. M.

His Excell'y Pat'k Tonym, Esq., Gov.,
& Commander-in-chief of the
Province of East Florida, &c., &c., &c.

Savannah, 26th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I have received your two letters, one of the 22nd and the other of the 23rd inst., and I thank you for the intelligence contained therein. Sorry am I that there is such a parcel of scoundrels infesting our roads and disturbing the peaceable inhabitants of this State. However, I hope you'll take every precaution and pursue every method in order to detect those fellows and put an entire stop to these diabolical practices in future. Try all you possibly can to find out the characters and connections those fellows have with our people. I shall send up and apprise the people on the Carolina side that the roads are waylaid, and shall also give particular directions for the taking up those men in the different counties. I hope by your vigilance and activity you'll shortly be able to give a good account of those fellows. The salt you sent for was supplied by the bearer, by whom I send you one quire of paper. I shall communicate the contents of those letters to Major Habersham, and measures shall be taken accordingly. I hope to hear from you shortly, and am, dear sir, your most obt. humble servant,

J. M.

Col. Stephen Johnson,
Effingham County.

Savannah, 27th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I received your favor of the 18th inst., by Mr. Bowie, and am much surprised to think the people are dissatisfied on account of any idle & ridiculous reports that may have

been propagated by Mr. Biddle, which you as an assemblyman know to be false, and of course should have contradicted. You'll please inform Mr. Biddle if he or any other person shall in future presume to inflame the minds of the people by such idle & scandalous reports that they may depend I shall take proper notice of them.

In regard to the appointment of a commissary, I shall leave to the recommendation of Col. Clarke to be sanctioned by me. Therefore I shall refer you to him on that head. I believe I shall fall on a plan to prevent all plundering and marauding parties from East Florida in future. However, in the meantime, be upon your guard.

In respect to the salt—you as a member of the honorable House must be sensible that measures have already been taken on that head, & a supply granted to each county, which I shall as soon as possible send up to Augusta for that purpose, to be delivered to Stephen Heard & Edmund Bugg, Esq. I expect a boat from the south'd shortly by which I shall send it.

As for news, the evacuation of Chs. town will take place in about three weeks, or a month. It is certain a French fleet of sixteen sail of the line have gone to the northward; it is imagined against New York. A couple of prizes have arrived here since you left us. I am with esteem dear sir,

Your most obt. & humble serv't,

J. M.

Capt. John Hill,
Fort Martin,
Wilkes County.
Favored by Mr. Bowie.

Savannah, 28th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Your favor of the 16th, inst., I have had the honor of receiving. Your Excellency will have this handed you by Col. Wylly, a friend of mine, a gentleman of character and one who is much esteemed by his fellow citizens. He has been a prisoner with the British at Savannah for some time past, and proceeds to Carolina in order to solicit an exchange. I beg leave to introduce him to your Excellency's notice and attention, as his services are much wanted in this State. With sentiments of esteem and regard, I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obt. & very humble serv't,

His Excellency,
Gen'l Greene.

J. M.

Savannah, 28th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I received your esteemed favor of the 11th, inst. I am exceeding sorry to find you have been so very unwell, but hope by this time you are thoroughly recovered. In regard to the fellows who have made their escape from Savannah and are lurking about the country, I would be glad you would endeavor to collect them as speedily as possible and have them sent to Savannah and delivered to Major Habersham.

I am sorry our roads have been of late so much infested by that fellow Moore and his gang. However, I hope you'll soon be able to clear the country of those scoundrels. If you find any women that harbour those fellows, I would be glad you'd have them sent to Savannah, where they shall be taken care of.

In regard to those bad characters who are waiting to do mischief and then slip off, I must leave to your own discretion to take such methods as will be most conducive to the welfare and interest of this country, I doubt not of your taking every necessary step on this occasion for the benefit of this State. It is impossible for me to give you necessary instructions on every particular head. Therefore, I must in many respects leave it to yourself. I am, dear sir, wishing success and happiness may attend you in your operations,

Your most obt. and very humble serv't,

Capt. Patrick Carr,
Commanding Carr's Legion.

J. M.

Savannah, 28th August, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I saw a letter lately from you directed to Mr. Rolfes, respecting the appointment of a commissary. After the stores, &c., are shipped to Savannah, I think there will be no occasion for a commissary. I hope the stores are forwarded on, but I have received no certain accounts of its being done. In regard to the powder & lead to be left for the defence of the upper counties, it may be lodged in a private manner under the direction of some gentleman, in some private place. There is a quantity of sheet lead that was thrown in the edge of the river just down by the water fence—towards the Indian house. The lead was thrown in on the side of the

fence next the dwelling house. By getting a sharp piece of iron & striking for it, it may be found.

I wish you would endeavor to get it up as soon as possible. I was informed you intended leaving shortly for Savannah, where I should be glad to see you.

Interim, I am dear sir, your most obt. & very humble serv't,

Cornelius Collins, Esq.,
Major Commanding at Augusta.

J. M.

P. S.—Compliments to all my Augusta friends.

Savannah, 4th September, 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Your favor of the 1st, inst., whereby I find you are still interrupted by those horse thieves, &c., which I hope you will pay proper attention to, and do all in your power to prevent their parties marauding among you.

Agreeable to your request have sent ten pounds of gun powder and twenty pounds of lead, which hope may be of infinite service to your intended expedition, and a great means of preventing their further inroads to your territory.

With respect to John Lee I shall take particular care that he is properly secured.

I am, &c.,

Lt. Colo'l John Cooper,
Midway.

J. M.

Savannah, 4th Sept., 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Your esteemed favor of the 16th, ultimo, per Mr. Lamar, I have received. In my last to your honor of the 16th August I informed it was not in my power to furnish the quantity of two thousand bushels salt agreeable to your request, but that I did not doubt that it might be procured from the merchants of this town, and wrote very fully on that head to Governor Mathews, enclosing the terms the merchants would supply that quantity upon & take produce in payment. I expect Governor Mathews has informed you of those particulars ere this.

Have received no answer from him as yet on that head. However, I engaged to supply your state with five hundred

bushels out of our own stock we had provided for the use of the public, four hundred bushels of which Mr. Lamar now takes up with him, being all he can possibly carry at present, as the flat he applied for is very much out of repair. The other hundred bushels shall at any time be delivered to your order.

Interim, I have the honor to be your most obt. & humble serv't,
Hon'ble Brig. Gen'l Pickens. J. M.

P. S.—Mr. Lamar can inform your honor more fully on this matter.

J. M.

Savannah, 5th Sept., 1782.

Dear Sir:—

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance the bearer of this, Col. Adlai Osborn, a gentleman of the State of North Carolina who means to become a settler among us. He, I do assure you, comes highly recommended from the first characters of that State. You'll find him to be a man of sense, an agreeable companion, a firm & staunch friend to our glorious independence.

Any attention or civilities shown him shall be gratefully acknowledged by, dear sir,

Your honor's most obt. & very humble serv't,

Brig. Gen'l McIntosh,
Augusta.

J. M.

P. S.—Comp'ts to Mrs. & Miss Wereat & the ladies at Augusta. For news I refer to the Colo'l.

Savannah, 7th Sept., 1782.

Sir:—

I had the honor of writing your Excellency the 15th, ulto., in answer to your letter of the 8th respecting a supply of two thousand bushels salt for the use of your State, enclosing a copy of a letter from the merchants of this town with the terms that they would supply that quantity upon, to which I have not been honored with your answer as yet, and the merchants are very pressing to know of me whether they are at liberty to dispose of their salt, it being in very great demand. Please favor me with an early answer on this

business, that I may detain the salt or release the said merchants from the terms they proposed. By application from General Pickens have already delivered four hundred bushels out of our private stock which was all the boats could carry of the five hundred promised by me, in case the said terms could not be complied with.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of esteem, your Excellency's most obt. and very humble serv't,

J. M.

His Excellency, John Mathews, Esq.,
Gov'r, &c., &c., &c.
So. Carolina.

Savannah, 7th Sept., 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I received your very polite letter of the 25th July respecting your worthy friend Mr. Bowman, a gentleman with whom I have the pleasure of being acquainted, and whose conduct and sentiments I have the highest opinion of. You need be under no apprehensions with respect to Mr. Bowman or his property. The good people of this State entertain a very great respect for his person & character. I am exceeding sorry he has of late been so much indisposed, however, I hope his jaunt to the northward will be a means of fully restoring his health once more. I have inclosed my permission for that purpose, agreeable to your request, which doubt not you will immediately forward him. Please make my compliments acceptable to him.

I requested the favor of Col. Wylly who has a few days since proceeded to General Green's headquarters to wait on you and inform you of those particulars. Your letter should with pleasure have been answered much earlier, but hurry of business prevented me.

I am with sentiments of esteem, dear sir, your most obt. & humble serv't,

J. M.

Col. C. C. Pinckney.

Savannah, 7th Sept., 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 30th ulto., together with the enclosure, & thank you for the

intelligence they contained. The British policy in withdrawing their troops is doubtless to lull us into a state of security until their particular purposes are answered in the West Indies and then to return with redoubled fury. However, I hope we shall be on our guard.

I am sorry to find those damn'd fellows are likely to become such near neighbors of ours. I'm afraid they will be rather troublesome to us with their skulking, marauding parties. You doubtless will watch their motions narrowly, and if any thing material should happen, am confident you'll immediately fly to the assistance of poor Georgia. We are preparing a couple of galleys and look-out boats, as speedily as possible, for the protection of this town and harbor.

The negroes that were employed in levelling the works around the town, I was under the necessity of discharging, on account of the crops. Therefore, that essential business is not as yet effected, but you may rely it shall be done as speedily as possible. My respectful compliments attend the worthy gentlemen of your family.

I have the honor to be your Honor's most obedient & most humble serv't,

J. M.

Hon'ble B. General Wayne.

Savannah, 9th August, 1782.

Sir:—

Mr. Lindsay, the gentleman who will have the honor of delivering this letter to your Excellency, is appointed by the Commissioners of our Forfeited Estates agent for collecting the public property of this State which has been illegally and eventually carried into the States of Virginia, the North and South Carolinas. I have therefore to request your Excellency's support and countenance, to be administered in such manner as may consist with local circumstances and the purport of Mr. Lindsay's agency.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's most humble and obt. serv't,

J. M.

To the Governors of Virginia,
North & South Carolina.

Savannah, 16th Sept., 1782.

Sir:—

You'll please proceed immediately from this with the schooner ——— and the men on board, under your direction, to the Bar of Tybee, & endeavor to get the cannon from on board the ship *Defiance* (a wreck now on the North Breaker Head) for the use of this garrison; and in effecting this essential business you'll immediately return to Savannah. Captain Findly, who has been kind enough to offer his vessel and sea-men for this purpose, and who has the charge of navigating the said schooner, you'll consult on every occasion, and advise with him for the more effectual prosecution of this business.

I doubt not every precaution will be taken to prevent your being captured by the enemy, and of course bringing a heavy expense on the State. Confident of your making every dispatch possible, I wish you success.

I am sir, your humble serv't,

J. M.

Capt. Robert Greer.

Savannah, 17th Sept., 1782.

Dear Sir:—

I am informed that one Captain Fulton with his company has been to the southward, & has distressed Mrs. McIntosh very much by robbing her of her property, as also several others of the inhabitants of this State. I would be glad you would see into this matter, & have her property restored to her again if possible; likewise to have the offenders brought to justice, and prevent such abuses in future, as I am resolved to put a stop to all plundering parties.

There has lately been an agreement entered into between Governor Tonym & myself, to prevent and put an entire stop to all plundering and marauding parties of either side, from molesting the peaceable and industrious inhabitants of each country; and the River St. Mary's being the boundary between this State and that province, in consequence thereof, it is my express orders that no parties from this State be suffered to pass the said river on any pretense whatever.

But I am informed that there is a set of banditti both in this and on the other side of St. Mary's that make a point of plundering both sides indiscriminately. These are a set of fellows that it becomes our duty to disperse on this side, and

Governor Tonyn will give directions to have them dispersed on the other side of St. Mary's, so that the industrious & peaceable inhabitants of both countries may once more quietly sit down in their plantations and enjoy the fruits of their labour. I would be glad to see you as soon as possible, in order to concert proper measures to put the foregoing plan into immediate execution. Interim,

I am sir, with esteem, your most humble serv't,

J. M.

Colo'l Cooper.

Savannah, 1st Oct., 1782.

Dear Sir:—

As Mr. Burke, who was appointed Chief Justice for this State, has not as yet arrived, and there is at present a great necessity for a court, in order to try at a number of felons now under confinement, it is therefore my particular request you would be so kind as to accept of the appointment of Chief Justice *pro tempore* on this occasion; & you will much oblige,

Dear sir, your most obt. serv't,

J. M.

Richard Howly, Esq.

Savannah, Oct. 2nd, 1782.

Sir:—

I received your esteemed favors of the 11th and 17th Sept., on the subject of such supplies of forage as may have been furnished by this State for subsisting the horses of the army commanded by Brig. Gen. Wayne during the time they were serving here you are pleased to inform are to be settled by you.

I shall take the most speedy method for procuring the different returns of forage, and shall transmit them to you as early as possible, in order to be sanctioned by the necessary signatures. I believe there was no great quantity of grain regularly supplied the army from this State, but there has been several rice and corn fields into which the horses of the army were at first turned in, and of course the fields were destroyed, after which many others followed the example, which must be valued by indifferent persons, in order to ascertain the same, to do justice to the proprietors.

I should have been exceedingly happy in the pleasure of seeing you at Savannah.

I am sir, with sentiments of esteem, your most obt. and very humble serv't,

J. M.

Lieut. Col. Edw'd Carrington, D. Q. So. Army.

By return of express from headquarters South Carolina.

Copy of Col. McMurphy's instructions, and sent by him to Mr. Richard Henderson, Ass't Dep. Supt. Indian Affairs.

Savannah, 4th Oct., 1782.

Sir:—

As the Creek Indians are arrived at Augusta I find it an impossibility for me to attend their talk there, not only on account of my indisposition, but on account of the Assembly's being so near sitting. If four or five of their principal Head Warriors, my friend the Tallassee King, his father, Hicot, &c., can come to Savannah I should be very glad to see them & hear their talk here; but unless these four or five head men can come here by themselves, by no means to come down, as I have no new talk to give them at present. I could only repeat the old talk which I have already given them and which they have by no means complied with. If the four or five head men can not come down, without bringing the rest with them, they are by no means to come here, but you are to receive the talk there which they may have to give me, and transmit the same to me as early as possible. If the few head men think of coming to Savannah, you'll send off the remainder of the Indians to the nation with all dispatch imaginable. I hope you'll take every precaution to send them away in as peaceable and quiet a manner as you possibly can, and by all means take care that the talks are not interrupted by any disputes, riots, or drunkenness, but observe that decency and decorum be observed in all your transactions with them.

Inform them I hope we shall soon be able to have a trade open with them, and when we are in a situation for it, we will inform them. At present we have no goods, and therefore can't supply them as we would wish.

I am sir, your most obt. serv't,

J. M.

Savannah, 5th Oct., 1782.

Sir:—

If you cannot procure cattle sufficient for the support of the army, upon the faith of the State, nor upon such terms as you are able to offer, then and in that case you are to impress cattle where they are to be most conveniently spared, taking particular care to distress individuals as little as possible in such a proceeding. You are to observe that these orders are not to be put in execution unless you find it an impossibility to supply the troops in any other mode.

By order of the Governor,

J. CLARKE, Sec.

Frederick Rolfes, Esq.,
Agent for the State of Georgia.

Savannah, 7th Oct., 1782.

Sir:—

I wrote you by Col. McMurphy which is in fact nearly a copy of the instructions I gave him to which I now refer and enclose you. I should be exceeding happy in seeing four or five of their principal head men down here to have their talk. I mean my good old friend the Tallassee King, his father, the fat King, Hicot, and one or two more. If these could come it might do very well, but not suffer more to come down by any means, as we have neither provisions nor presents to give them. If it can't be managed in this manner you must receive their talk there, and send the same to me by the earliest opportunity. I trust you will take every care and precaution to send them away as well satisfied and in as peaceable and quiet a manner as you possibly can, and be particularly careful that the talks are not interrupted by any riots, disputes or drunkenness that may interrupt the friendship that subsists between us. I think it would not be amiss to apply to the commanding officer of the militia to procure a body of men to escort the Indians safely out of the settlements, and to prevent their doing mischief to the inhabitants.

I am sir, wishing you success & happiness, your most
obt. serv't,

J. M.

Mr. Rich'd Henderson,
D. S. I. Affairs at Augusta.

Savannah, 18th Oct., 1782.

Gentlemen:—

Having been informed that Mr. Johnston, the printer, who has returned to this State under the faith of the same (in full expectation of meeting with ample protection) is likely to be turned out of doors with his family into the streets, altho' he has undertaken to print for the public, and his press already prepared for that purpose. It is true his house was sold to Doctor Waudin previous to his being taken off the bill, and of course optional with the purchaser. But in this particular case, gentlemen, I would wish your friendly mediation, as the matter in my opinion may be easily settled, provided the parties are inclinable. There is now several houses to be disposed of on account of the public—**Quere**, whether one of those cannot be reserved by you gentlemen for the reception of Doctor Waudin & family, and sold on a future day?

I think this matter might be easily done, and to the satisfaction of both parties.

Your compliance in this will much oblige, gentlemen, your most obed't serv't,

J. M.

The Gent'n Commissioners
of Forfeited Estates.

Savannah, 18th Oct., 1782.

Sir:—

I am sorry to be informed that your family is in town and at present destitute of a house, altho' one was purchased by you at the late sales and that Mr. Johnston's was the house you purchased. Unfortunate for him it was sold previous to his being taken off the bill. He has now returned to this State, under the faith and protection of the same, in order to print for the public, and his press already prepared in that house. If he should be turned out of doors, he and his little family would also be destitute for a place to put their heads in. Now, as the commissioners have several houses for sale on the public account, I think one of those houses might be reserved for your family until the meeting of the House of Assembly, who will doubtless settle the matter to your mutual satisfaction. I have wrote the gentlemen commissioners on this head, and beg leave to refer you to them on this business, and doubt not but it may be settled amicably, provided gentlemen are inclinable.

I hope you'll endeavor to compromise this matter, and endeavor to make it as easy as possible. I have no other motive, upon my honor, than that harmony and good will should exist between the contending parties.

I am with esteem, sir, your most obt. serv't,

J. M.

Doctor John Waudin.

Savannah, 19th Oct., 1782.

Sir:—

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 28th Aug., in answer to mine of the 15th by the gentlemen commissioners who were appointed by me to negotiate concerning the mode of carrying on the war in future, upon liberal principles, in order to prevent plundering and marauding parties from disturbing the peaceable and industrious inhabitants on the frontiers of Florida and of this State.

Happy am I to find that your Excellency's opinion exactly coincides with mine on that head, as cruel predatory incursions never will be a means of answering any good purpose towards procuring that great and desirable object—Peace; but rather serves to irritate and embitter the minds of the contending parties. Anxious to promote those sentiments of moderation, I had, previous to the receipt of your letter, given strict and positive instructions to the commanding officer acting under my authority in the Southern parts of this State not to pass the St. Mary's River, it being the boundary between Florida & Georgia, and by no means to suffer those horrid scenes of murder & plunder to be permitted in future, which I am sorry to say has been hitherto but too much encouraged by both parties. I shall be particularly careful and give positive instructions that no depredations or hostilities shall be committed on the plantations in Florida, and if, contrary to my orders and instructions, any irregularity should be committed by any parties acting under my authority, that I do promise that every satisfaction in my power shall be given, and that every step shall be taken by me to promote and establish those desirable objects, and make them of equal weight and efficiency in this State as in Florida. In regard to the unfortunate characters hinted at in your letter, I truly & sincerely feel for their situation, many of whom I know to be men of worth and integrity.

Happy should I be to see the blessings of peace once more restored not only to this country, but all Europe; and until that wished for period arrives, I hope the war may be conducted with that becoming moderation that may reflect honor, and add to the luster and dignity of both nations.

I return you my sincere thanks for your kind offers of supplies & may rely nothing shall be wanting on my part to promote & carry on a friendly intercourse between the two countries consistent with my duty and the laws of nations.

The genteel and polite reception the gentlemen commissioners met with at St. Augustine, and while there, merits my particular thanks. There is one Samuel Moore (who was formerly in the service of the British when they had possession of Savannah, and now pretends to act under a commission from them) has of late, in company with five or six others of his associates, waylaid some of our roads, has cruelly murdered one Sellers, a subject of this State, and has plundered a number of our worthy & peaceable inhabitants of their money—600 guineas in cash from a Mr. Walthour, together with several horses and negroes & has since gone off to Florida, by the information of a party I sent after them. I would wish for your interposition in this matter, & endeavor if possible to secure the property, and have the fellow & his party apprehended & sent into this State where they may be dealt with agreeable to the laws of this country. Information has also just come to hand that a Captain Scallions, in a galley from St. Augustine, did last evening secretly come into one of the inlets of Ossabaw in this State, & burnt a new vessel on the stocks, nearly finished, taken off thirty negroes & two thousand weight of indigo belonging to the estate of Mr. John Morel, & three negroes belonging to the estate of Thomas Netherclift, Esq.

I confess these are violations I by no means expected, & contrary to those good intentions aimed at between us. However, I hope the property may be secured for their proper owners, & such other measures taken as may be deemed necessary on this occasion.

This will be handed you by Col. Cooper who goes with a flag for that express purpose. He is a gentleman I would wish to recommend to your notice and attention.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obt. & most humble serv't,

J. M.

His Excell'y
Patrick Tonnyn, Esq.,
per Col. Cooper.

Savannah, Oct. 22nd, 1782.

Sir:—

After my dispatches for Governor Tonyn were closed, I heard that it was uncertain what boat or vessel it was from Florida that did the mischief at the Southward in burning the vessel, carrying off the negroes & indigo of Mr. Morel belonging to an undivided estate, in which misfortune a number of helpless children are involved; also those negroes of Mr. Netherclift's. Inclosed is a memorandum of sundry negroes, horses, &c., the property of General & Col. McIntosh, which has been lately plundered by people who have taken asylum in Florida. I would be glad you would apply to his Excellency, Governor Tonyn, for his interposition in the several matters here contained, in order to secure the property for their rightful owners, agreeable to certain stipulations entered into between us, & request that his Excellency would take such other measures as may be deemed necessary in this essential business.

I am with esteem, sir, your most obt. & very humble serv't,

J. M.

Lieut. Col. Cooper.